



**For immediate release**

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For more information,  
contact Barry Hopkins, NASPO Sr. Project Coordinator  
(859) 231-1877 or [bhopkins@amrinc.net](mailto:bhopkins@amrinc.net)

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***NASPO awards top honors to Illinois' innovative procurement practices***

*Lexington, Ky.* — The National Association of State Procurement Officials honored seven innovative state procurement programs at its Annual Meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico when it presented its annual Cronin Club awards. The awards are broken into two categories; Classic and Information Technology.

The State of Illinois received the 2004 Cronin Classic Gold Award on August 31, for “*Transformation of Procurement Performance.*” To address the problems created by the existence of a decentralized procurement model and the presence of a large state budget deficit, the State of Illinois, Central Management Services Procurement Agency, led by CMS Assistant Director, Paul Campbell, launched this comprehensive initiative in August 2003. The program is driven by a set of aggressive savings goals and complemented by an equally ambitious set of aspirations for organizational change from which the state has already received stellar results.

Since 1985, the Cronin Club Innovation Awards have recognized innovative state procurement programs and promoted the sharing of ideas between states. The Cronin Club is a committee of past presidents of the association and is named for the first NASPO President, George Cronin. More information on the awarded programs is available on the NASPO homepage at <http://www.naspo.org>.

*The National Association of State Procurement Officials is a non-profit association dedicated to strengthening the procurement community through education, research, and communication. It is made up of the directors of the central purchasing offices in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the territories of the United States. NASPO is an organization through which the member purchasing officials provide leadership in professional public purchasing, improve the quality of purchasing and procurement, exchange information and cooperate to attain greater efficiency and economy.*

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For more information on NASPO and its recent initiatives, please contact Barry Hopkins, NASPO Sr. Project Coordinator, at (859) 231-1877 or [bhopkins@amrinc.net](mailto:bhopkins@amrinc.net).

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